

The public airwaves belong to the public. As guardians of the airways it is your job to make sure that they are used in the public interest. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary as "news" days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and of the increasing manipulation of what Americans see and hear by large, moneyed corporations with vested interests.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.